



Paralyzed Veterans
of America

Central Florida Chapter

WHEELS IN MOTION

October 2020



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**Paralyzed Veterans of America
Central Florida Chapter
2711 S. Design Ct.
Sanford, FL 32773-8120
Phone (407) 328-7041
Fax: (407) 328-7139**

October Board Meeting on **zoom** is October 8th 10:30 AM.

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Email: office@pvacf.org
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Mission Statement

Paralyzed Veterans of America Central Florida, is a congressionally chartered veteran's service organization that provides a platform of advocacy, education and research, communication, adaptive sports and recreation for veterans paralyzed as a result of spinal cord injury or dysfunction, in an effort to afford them with the highest quality of healthcare and life experiences.



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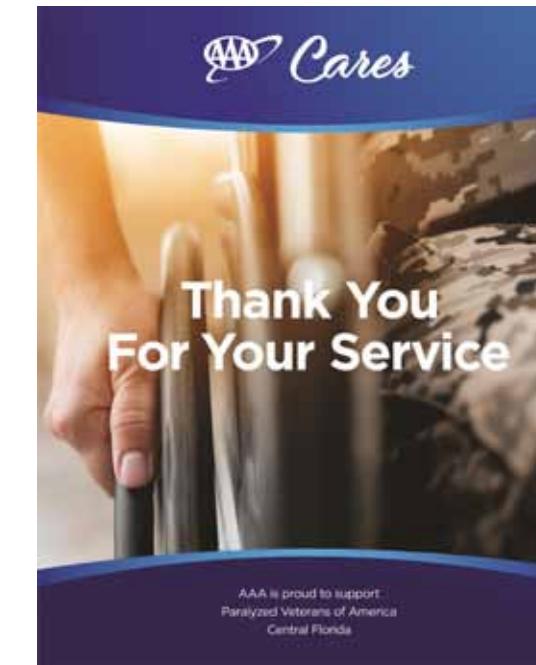
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"If you can believe, All Things Are Possible
to him who believes." Mark 9:23



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President

The word “robot” is precisely 100 years old this year. It was coined by the Czech writer Karel apek, in a play that set the template for a century’s machine dreams and nightmares. The robots in that play, R.U.R., look and act like people, do all the work of humans—and wipe out the human race before the curtain falls.

However, people become attached to their robots. Military units have held funerals for bomb-clearing robots blown up in action. Nurses in hospitals tease their robot colleagues. People in experiments have declined to rat out their robot teammates. As robots get more lifelike, people probably will invest them with even more affection and trust—too much, perhaps. The influence of fantasy robots leads people to think that today’s real machines are far more capable than they really are. Adapting well to their presence among us, experts say, must start with realistic expectations.

Robots now deliver food in Milton Keynes, England, tote supplies in a Dallas hospital, disinfect patients’ rooms in China and Europe, and wander parks in Singapore, nagging pedestrians to maintain social distance.

Some humans make use of wearable robots, or exoskeletons—combinations of sensors, computers, and motors. Arms with hooks attached, demonstrated by Sarcos Robotics engineer Fletcher Garrison, can lift up to 200 pounds—perhaps as an aid to airport luggage handlers.

Yukio Taguchi, a 59-year-old paraplegic, wears HAL (Hybrid Assistive Limb), developed by Cyberdyne. Taguchi was a surfer and snowboarder for more than 30 years. After a spinal cord injury, he began to train with HAL two times a month at Tsukuba Robocare Center in Tsukuba, Japan.

“The exoskeleton, manufactured by a Japanese firm called Cyberdyne, consisted of two connected white tubes that curved across my back, a belt at my waist, and two straps on my thighs. It felt like being strapped into a parachute or an amusement park ride. I bent at the waist to lift a 40-pound container of water, which should have hurt my lower back. Instead, a computer in the tubes used the change in position to deduce that I was lifting an object, and motors kicked in to assist me.” (More advanced users would have worn electrodes so the device could read the signals their brain was sending to their muscles.)

“The robot was designed to assist only my back muscles; when I squatted and put the effort into my legs, as you’re supposed to, the device didn’t help much. Still, when it worked, it seemed like a magic trick—I felt the weight, then I didn’t.”

Cyberdyne sees a large market in medical rehabilitation; it also makes a lower-limb exoskeleton

that is being used to help people regain the use of their own legs. For many of its products, “another market will be for workers, so they can work longer and without risking injuries,” Cyberdyne spokesman Yudai Katami said.

Sarcos Robotics, the other maker of exoskeletons, is thinking along similar lines. One purpose of his devices, said CEO Wolff, was “allowing humans to be more productive so they can keep up with the machines that enable automation.”

Designers of the revolutionary RBO Hand 3, a soft robotic hand made of flexible materials, are working to give it something akin to a human’s sense of touch. Features include sensors that measure strain via electrical resistance and embedded acoustics to track where fingers are in contact with objects (or humans) and the amount of force.

In a world that now fears human contact, it won’t be easy to fill jobs caring for children or the elderly. Maja Matarić, a computer scientist and roboticist at the University of Southern California, develops “socially assistive robots”—machines that do social support rather than physical labor. One of her lab’s projects, for example, is a robot coach that leads an elderly user through an exercise routine, then encourages the human to go outside and walk. “It says, ‘I can’t go outside, but why don’t you take a walk and tell me about it?’” Matarić told me. The robot is a white plastic head, torso, and arms that sits atop a rolling metal stand. But its sensors and software allow it to do some of what a human coach would do—for example, saying, “Bend your left forearm inward a little,” during exercise, or “Nice job!” afterward.

When walking around her lab—a warren of young people in cubicles are working on the technologies that might let a robot help keep the conversation going in a support group, for example, or respond in a way that makes a human feel like the machine is empathizing. When asked if people ever got creeped out at the thought of a machine watching over Grandpa, Matarić said “We’re not replacing caregivers. We are filling a gap. Grown-up children can’t be there with elderly parents. And the people who take care of other people in this country are underpaid and underappreciated. Until that changes, using robots is what we’ll have to do.”

Stay safe and thank your caregiver because the robots have yet to come.

Thanks National Geographic for the information that was used here.

Steve Kirk



Executive Director

October 2020

None of us would have thought 8 months ago that we would still be locked down and social distancing 8 months later. However, here we are, still keeping our distance and waiting and waiting and waiting for something to happen that will give us comfort and security for the days ahead. In early March, while advocating

for our membership in Washington DC and meeting with our national representatives, I was barely aware of the severity of this virus, referred to as the Covid-19 corona virus. I was careful to wear gloves while riding the Metro downtown (although while in the halls of congress, I did not think about opening doors without gloves on and moving freely among the crowds of people). No one was wearing masks and there were no signs telling me to stay 6 feet apart from the next person in line. Yet here we are living a very different life. I wear a mask whenever I am in public and around other people. I have surgical gloves in my car to put on when I pump gas. All of the meetings that I used to attend in person I am now attending via Zoom (do I wish I had stock in that company in early March). I watch the news to see how many cases have been recorded and unfortunately I have had to announce the loss of someone I knew who had succumbed to this dreaded virus. Every week I get news of someone I know who is at home sick and fighting off the virus (both young and old). We are all conscious of who is close to us that might be coughing. We look for the directional arrows when we are grocery shopping (that is if we even go into the grocery store). I have only been in a grocery store two times since March 18th and both times I worried that I might get to close to someone I didn't know.

In the office, Joanne (our office manager) and I wear masks whenever we are anywhere near each other and we keep the front door locked to keep out strangers that may be coming to deliver something or pick something up. I have six different styles and color masks in my desk drawer, another three in my car. We had canceled all of our chapter adaptive sports programs and our Refurbished Equipment Exchange Program

(REEP) is being done while keeping our distance. We put the item outside and ask whomever is picking it up to sign documents, which are also outside on a table. Our chapter board meetings are being held via Zoom and I have a Zoom meeting with our chapter president nearly every day.

A couple of months ago, the chapter board of directors voted to send each of our members a \$100 Amazon gift card to help with any extra expenses they may have had as a result of being isolated due to the virus. We received many thank you notes and some were returned, asking us to give it to someone with a greater need. One member sent back the card and an additional check for \$100 as a donation. Some of the comments we received were; "I was amazed to receive the chapter's most generous \$100 amazon Gift Card to make life easier during this COVID-19 lockdown", "Thank you for the gift card, it is greatly appreciated", "Thank you for the gift card, I really appreciate it. It really benefited me and my teenage daughter." "You sending the gift card was greatly appreciated. I got \$100 worth of cheer and happiness from the sending of the card and your lovely letter" (this person returned the card and asked us to use it to help a veteran with a greater need). These and so many other responses inspired the board to do even more for those with the greatest need.

The board decided to purchase 500 masks, with the PVACF logo on them, and distribute one to each of our members. The response from our membership was so great, that the board recently decided to purchase 500 more masks and we will send one to any member that requests another mask.

Also, we have created a COVID-19 Emergency Grant Program and funded it with an initial \$20,000. You can go to page 14 to see if you qualify and if so, how you can apply for emergency assistance. A committee has been established to review all requests and to make funding decisions based upon the information received.

We will get through this together, as we gradually opening things up again.

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John DeMauro



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An advertisement for the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Vehicle Donation Program. It features a blue header with the PVA logo and the text "Paralyzed Veterans of America" and "Vehicle Donation Program". Below this, a white truck is shown towing a silver car. A red button at the bottom right says "GIVE TODAY". The text "Especially now, we need your support." and "Donate a car, truck or other vehicle. The process is easy, the pick-up is free, and your gift is tax-deductible." is displayed.

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I would like to thank the PVA Bass Tour and all the chapters that have ever held a bass tournament and for the many years of support and opportunities given to me to live my dream. I have qualified once again for the 2020 Bass Nation Tournament to be held in Florence Alabama on November 11 through November 13th. This will give me a chance to make it to the Bass Masters classic and represent the Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Central Florida PVA. My history goes way back with the PVA and Fishing.

The U.S. Open was started back in the 1980s in Sanford Florida by the Central Florida PVA chapter. Then the National PVA began the tournament trail hosted by other PVA chapters in several different states. In the 1990s National PVA started the PVA Bass tour, a tournament trail all over the U.S. it was from Florida to California to Washington DC. The first PVA Tour Championship was held at Lake Havasu, Arizona on the Colorado River in 1997. I finished second that year but I was already the one that got hooked. I've fished with some really great guys over the years and I have some really good fish stories.

Through the years the trail got bigger and better. Sometimes we had over 100 boaters at a tournament and the chapters and the leadership came together and gave us the opportunity to fish at a competitive level and make new friends and follow our dreams. The biggest thing was to get our members out of the house and not just sitting at home doing nothing. It's a great sport. Get out there, you will love it.

I took a break to take care of my wife Dorothy in 2009. I have been back now for several years and I feel like I really have a chance of making my dream come true this year by making it to the Bassmasters Classic. This is my third time qualifying. Let me tell you how you can get here.

Paralyzed Veterans of America Bass Tour is a series of two day tournaments held at various locations around the country. Each tournament consists of an open/team competition for anglers who fish from a boat or bank competitions for competitors who prefer to fish from shore.

In the open/team competitions, disabled anglers are paired with able – body partners who serve as coaches, choose baits, and help find fishing locations. On the first day of competition only the disabled anglers compete for points and prizes. On the second day, the paired anglers compete as a team for cash and prizes.



At the end of the tournament trail the disabled PVA member with the most points is AOY (angler of the year) and gets a spot at the BASS Nation Tournament.

The B. A. S. S. Nation is a global network of locally organized clubs whose members participate in and support a range of activities, including tournaments, conservations initiatives and youth programs.

Competitors qualify through a series of local and regional tournaments Bass Masters Classic.

This is a very prestigious event. I have worked hard and have had a lot of love and support from family, sponsors and friends. Please make sure to login and watch the live Weigh in on Bass Masters.com the days of the tournament November 11 through the 13th 2020.

2020 TNT Fireworks BASS Nation Championship at Lake Pickwick, Florence, Alabama.



Ken Carter

THE PVACF COVID-19 EMERGENCY GRANT

Overview

The purpose of this program is to support our membership during their time of need as they live their lives through the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic.

Grant Detail

This grant will be provided to individual chapter members negatively affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic for up to \$500. The grant may be applied to those chapter members needing assistance financially in the areas of food, housing, health care and basic living expenses. Chapter members are only encouraged to apply for this grant if they can demonstrate a need.

Eligibility

All chapter members in good standing and not having previously received this grant are eligible. Eligible chapter members should consider applying for this grant if they clearly and without question need financial assistance. Doing so will ensure that the available funds will be available for those chapter members with the greatest hardships during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Grant Requirements

Proof of chapter membership (this will be confirmed by office staff via the PVA Portal)

Proof of membership in good standing (which for the purposes of this grant will be based upon the member not being on membership probation or having any outstanding debt to the chapter).

The chapter must have current contact information on the member. Address, phone number, email address.

Proof of need (past due notice for utility bill, past due notice for rent or mortgage payment, statement of need for food or health care).

Description of how you and/or your family have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Distribution Process

Funds will be distributed directly to vendor. For food, gift cards will be provided from the vendor of the chapter member's choice.

Grant Oversight

A COVID-19 Emergency Grant Funding Committee, made up of the Chapter President, Treasurer and Executive Director, will review all grant requests and will with sole discretion and authority approve, deny or modify any grant request, in whole or in part, for any reason they deem necessary. All decisions made by the committee will be final and will not be subject to appeal.

Disbursement of Funds

Upon approval, the Executive Director will notify the member of the committee's decision via phone and will verify method of payment of the grant. Under no circumstances will any funds be distributed or released in advance of or without the COVID-19 Emergency Grant Funding Committee's approval.



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Shooting COVID Style

Amir Phisdad



Brian Terwillger



Amir Phisdad

Steve Kirk



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